

***The following is feedback from Marian Cabor, the teacher who e-Facilitated the Adobe Connect meeting rooms and the content of 2 elements of the unit of competency. It really sums up the benefits of using this alternative delivery model.***

This feedback is also available on podcast.

It is one idea to teach early childhood curriculum in class and another to teach same content in an online forum. Both environments are unique in their own right and offer very different opportunities. They offer variety, thrilling moments and diverse insight into how students/teachers construct their own knowledge.

When first approached to teach in the NBN Adobe Connect Project between Kiama (Illawarra TAFE teachers) and Armidale (TAFE students/teachers), I was apprehensive due to my evolving information technology abilities (.....or I think at times....lack of). I felt I was still learning to refine my teaching techniques in the Moodle online program. Why would I take on another platform for online learning when I was still finding my feet with the first!

So here we go.....when I commit it tends to be boots-and-all! The Adobe Connect 'meeting room' at first caused some anxiety as I noticed so many small communication pods: participants' pod, webcam pod, notes pod, web site pod, files pod, chat pod, share pod. I had more questions than acceptance and understanding. Why so many pods? Still, there was familiarity from Moodle chat sessions. Prior knowledge was keeping me interested and connected to this new online learning/teaching.

It did not take long to realise this 'meeting room' had everything I needed at the click of a button. All lesson material was developed earlier and uploaded into each pod. This included introduction and agenda notes for students, websites, and prepared documents/files.

Once teachers and students logged into the meeting room with their audio connected and webcam for me only at this stage, the session was ready to start. In week one it was exciting to correspond with students via text in the chat pod and audio at the same time. Some students could not access audio so were encouraged to use chat pod. Great to see these alternatives were available to meet students/teachers needs.

As the teacher, the challenge was to read and hear students answers then respond. This was a new skill for my online teaching i.e. to talk and read at the same time or at times to type in the chat pod and while talking. Hearing the students verbal responses made for very enjoyable moments and connections knowing how far away we were from each other. Dynamics were becoming distinctive with audio as you could distinguish between humor and importance in peoples voices/responses.

Week two of the Adobe Connect session provided another thrilling moment when webcams were installed for each student and teacher. After a few weeks of workshops where we used chat pod and audio only, we had moved to a new level of connection between student/teacher. We could see each other! This was very exciting and I'm sure daunting for some. I believe the relationship now between students and teachers was more expressive and impacts more positively on the overall online learning/teaching. A 'whole classroom on one page' with faces, voices, emotions, prior knowledge, new knowledge, teacher support, peer support, all planned resources available at a click of button. So that question I asked earlier: Why would I take on another platform for online learning when I was still finding my feet with the first!

My answer: 'Another' platform for online learning is the natural progression for those educators and students, who want to move forward, construct new knowledge and refine prior knowledge.

What a ride! I'm lucky I was asked to take part.